

In the United States Patent and Trademark Office

In re the Application of:

Yen-Fu Chen)
Serial Number: 10/755,831) Group: 2109
Docket Number: AUS920030665US1) Examiner: Anil N. Kumar
Filed on: 01/12/2004)
For: "Online Learning Monitor")

INFORMAL COMMUNICATION: PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1540

Sir:

Please forward the attached proposed amendment and interview request to the examiner in this case. Applicants wish to discuss the proposed amendment with the examiner by telephone as soon as possible.

Respectfully,



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Section I:**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR §1.121 to the
CLAIMS**

1. (currently amended) A method for monitoring activities of a person quoting information verbatim in an electronic document file being authored transferring content from one computer resource to another computer resource, comprising the steps of:

receiving from a user a user-selected first insertion point or replacement area for placement of verbatim quoted information within [[from]] a first user interface to a destination electronic document file computer resource, said insertion point or replacement area being user-selected;

subsequent to receiving said first insertion point, providing a source user interface to a user-selected source electronic document file computer resource upon user command;

subsequent to providing said source user interface, receiving a user selection of text content to be transferred from said source user interface to said first insertion point or replacement area;

subsequent to receiving said user selection of content, automatically copying said selected content to a transfer buffer without requiring said user to return to said first user interface;

capturing and recording one or more source reference data items corresponding to said selected content simultaneously with or subsequent to said automatic copying:
[[and]]

producing in said destination electronic document file a footnote, endnote, or bibliographical entry comprising said captured source reference data items; and

automatically generating a human-readable monitor report containing said recorded source reference data items and an identity indicator of said an identity of said user.

2. (original) The method as set forth in Claim 1 further comprising the step of transmitting said monitor report to an online learning administrator.
3. (original) The method as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said step of capturing and recording one or more source reference data items is performed in a manner which is undetectable by said user.
4. (original) The method as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said step of recording one or more source reference data items comprises capturing a source identifier selected from the group of a file name, a path name, a folder name, a server name, a Uniform Resource Locator, and a network address.
5. (original) The method as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said step of recording one or more source reference data items comprises capturing a system time, a system date, or both a system time and date.
6. (original) The method as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said step of recording one or more source reference data items comprises capturing an author identifier for said source information.
7. (original) The method as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said step of recording one or more source reference data items comprises capturing a publication date for said source information.
8. (original) The method as set forth in Claim 2 wherein said step of generating a human-readable monitor report comprises a step selected from the group of creating an electronic mail message, creating a text file, creating a binary data file, and printing a report on a printer.

9. (original) The method as set forth in Claim 1 further comprising the steps of providing an administrator graphical user interface through which an administrator may view stored monitor reports for one or more students.
10. (original) The method as set forth in Claim 9 wherein said step of providing an administrator graphical user interface further comprises providing a user interface function selected from the group of a report sorter, a report filter, and a report search function.
11. (original) The method as set forth in Claim 10 wherein said step of providing a user interface function comprises providing a user interface function criteria specifier selected from the group of a student's identification, a class of students, a maximum number of references consulted, a list of allowed references for consultation, and a list of disallowed references for consultation.

12. (currently amended) ~~A computer readable medium encoded with software An article of manufacturing for monitoring activities of a person quoting information verbatim in an electronic document file being authored transferring content from one computer resource to another computer resource, said article comprising software performing the steps of: a computer readable medium suitable for encoding computer program code; and one or more program codes encoded by said medium configured to perform the steps of:~~

(a) receiving ~~from a user~~ a user-selected first insertion point or replacement area for placement of verbatim quoted information within [[from]] a first user interface to a destination electronic document file computer resource, said insertion point or replacement area being user-selected;

(b) subsequent to receiving said first insertion point, providing a source user interface to a user-selected source electronic document file computer resource upon user command;

(c) subsequent to providing said source user interface, receiving a user selection of text content to be transferred from said source user interface to said first insertion point or replacement area;

(d) subsequent to receiving said user selection of content, automatically copying said selected content to a transfer buffer without requiring said user to return to said first user interface;

(e) capturing and recording one or more source reference data items corresponding to said selected content simultaneously with or subsequent to said automatic copying;
[[and]]

(f) producing in said destination electronic document file a footnote, endnote, or bibliographical entry comprising said captured source reference data items; and

(g) automatically generating a human-readable monitor report containing said recorded source reference data items and an identity indicator of said an identity of said user.

13. (original) The computer readable medium as set forth in Claim 12 further comprising

software for transmitting said monitor report to an online learning administrator.

14. (original) The computer readable medium as set forth in Claim 12 further comprising software for capturing and recording one or more source reference data items comprises software which is undetectable by said user when being executed.
15. (original) The computer readable medium as set forth in Claim 12 further comprising software for recording one or more source reference data items comprises software for capturing a source identifier selected from the group of a file name, a path name, a folder name, a server name, a Uniform Resource Locator, and a network address.
16. (original) The computer readable medium as set forth in Claim 12 further comprising software for recording one or more source reference data items comprises capturing a system time, a system date, or both a system time and date.
17. (original) The computer readable medium as set forth in Claim 12 further comprising software for recording one or more source reference data items comprises software for capturing an author identifier for said source information.
18. (original) The computer readable medium as set forth in Claim 12 further comprising software for recording one or more source reference data items comprises software for capturing a publication date for said source information.
19. (original) The computer readable medium as set forth in Claim 13 further comprising software for generating a report selected from the group of an electronic mail message, a text file, a binary data file, and a printed report.
20. (currently amended) The computer readable medium as set forth in Claim 12 further comprising software for providing an administrator graphical user interface through which an administrator may view stored monitor reports for one or more students.

21. (original) The computer readable medium as set forth in Claim 20 wherein said software for providing an administrator graphical user interface further comprises software for providing a user interface function selected from the group of a report sorter, a report filter, and a report search function.

22. (original) The computer readable medium as set forth in Claim 21 wherein said software for providing a user interface function comprises software for providing a user interface function criteria specifier selected from the group of a student's identification, a class of students, a maximum number of references consulted, a list of allowed references for consultation, and a list of disallowed references for consultation.

23. A system for monitoring activities of a person quoting information verbatim in an electronic document file being authored transferring content from one computer resource to another computer resource, the system comprising:

 a first user-selected insertion point or replacement area received for placement of verbatim quoted information within [[from]] a first user interface to a destination electronic document file computer resource, said insertion point or replacement area being user-selected;

 a source user interface to a source electronic document file computer resource through which said user can manipulate said source computer resource;

 one or more user-selected information text elements selected by said user subsequent to definition of said insertion point or replacement area to be transferred from said source user interface to said first insertion point or replacement area;

 an automatic copier configured to copy said user-selected information text elements to a transfer buffer subsequent to selection of said elements for transfer, said copier copying said elements without requiring said user to return to said first user interface;

 a source reference data item recorder configured to simultaneously with or subsequent to said automatic copying capture one or more source reference data items corresponding to said selected content upon operation of said automatic copier; [[and]]

a reference note generator configured to produce in said destination electronic document file a footnote, endnote, or bibliographical entry comprising said captured source reference data items; and

 a monitor report generator adapted to automatically generate a human-readable monitor report containing said recorded source reference data items and an indicator of said an the identity of said user.

24. (original) The system as set forth in Claim 23 further comprising a report transmitter adapted to transmit said monitor report to an online learning administrator.

25. (original) The system as set forth in Claim 23 wherein said source reference data item

recorder is configured to capture and record one or more source reference data items in a manner which is undetectable by said user.

26. (original) The system as set forth in Claim 23 wherein said source reference data item recorder is configured to capture a source identifier selected from the group of a file name, a path name, a folder name, a server name, a Uniform Resource Locator, and a network address.

27. (original) The system as set forth in Claim 23 wherein said source reference data item recorder is configured to capture a system time, a system date, or both a system time and a system date.

28. (original) The system as set forth in Claim 23 wherein said source reference data item recorder is configured to capture an author identifier for said source information.

29. (original) The system as set forth in Claim 23 wherein said source reference data item recorder is configured to capture a publication date for said source information.

30. (original) The system as set forth in Claim 29 wherein said monitor report generator is further configured to generate a report selected from the group of an electronic mail message, a text file, a binary data file, and a report on a printer.

31. (original) The system as set forth in Claim 23 further comprising an administrator graphical user interface through which an administrator may view stored monitor reports for one or more students.

32. (original) The system as set forth in Claim 31 wherein said administrator graphical user interface further comprises a user interface function selected from the group of a report sorter, a report filter, and a report search function.

33. (original) The system as set forth in Claim 32 wherein said user interface function comprises a user interface function criteria specifier selected from the group of a student's identification, a class of students, a maximum number of references consulted, a list of allowed references for consultation, and a list of disallowed references for consultation.

Section II:

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR §1.121 to the
SPECIFICATION**

None.

Section III:

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR §1.121 to the
DRAWINGS**

No amendments or changes to the Drawings are proposed.

Section IV:**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR §1.121****REMARKS**

Applicants propose the amendments shown herein with the intent to advance prosecution to allowance in the next office action. Applicants believe that the added elements, steps, and/or limitations place the claims clearly in a position for allowance over the art of record.

A telephone interview is requested with the examiner. As applicants are seeking agreement to allowability, it is requested that the telephone interview be attended by an examiner with authority to make such an agreement.

With respect to the objection to Claim 1, applicants propose to amend claim 1, similarly claims 12 and 23, to correct the typographical error noted in the Office Action.

With respect to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), Applicants believe the proposed amendment to the claims would clearly distinguish over the cited references in the following ways:

(1) Applicants' verbatim quoting (e.g. direct copying) sequence is the reverse of the traditional copying sequence. Normally, a user finds or locates the item to be copied, selects it, operates a copy command, and then selects a location where that copy should be placed. This is a source first, destination second sequence. Applicants' method, however, uses the reverse of this normal process, wherein the destination is designated first, then the source for copying is designated second. Thus, it is a destination first, source second process. (*reference: para. 0063; fig. 8 #81, #84, *85, #86, #800*) This reversal of the normal copying process is not suggested by the cited references, but is useful in solving the problem of automatically monitoring and footnoting verbatim cited material. Instead, Jacobsen describes typical downloading scenario (e.g. select source first, designate destination second); and Snag-it does not insert content into an existing user interface while viewing a file, but instead creates a new file, email, document, etc.

(2) Applicant's invention is directed towards capturing information items to complete a footnote, endnote, or bibliographical entry, such as those used commonly in scientific and educational documents. (*see para. 0027 and fig. 8 #802, for example*) Jacobsen

relates to monitoring network usage, not creating footnotes, endnotes, or bibliographies. Snag-It relates to capturing images of computer screens, and is silent regarding such note creation.

(3) Applicants' invention copies non-executable text from one source document to another (*see para. 0065, for example*), while Jacobsen relates to the copying or downloading of executable software. Snag-It relates to copying images of computer screens (e.g "screen captures"), where a screen capture is taken from a video buffer of a computer, not from a source document file.

(4) Applicants' invention is directed towards monitoring the verbatim quotation of textual source information in a new document, such as a term paper, while reporting the verbatim quoting (e.g. direct copying) operation to a monitoring administrator.

(*reference: para. 0027, 0028; fig. 9 #91*) Jacobsen is directed towards unauthorized copying of executable programs on a network, but is silent as to cutting-and-pasting program source code text into a new program, for example. Snag-it does not report their copying to an administrator other than the user doing the copying. Thus, there is no suggestion in either Jacobsen or Snag-it to add the missing step of administrator monitoring of verbatim copying of text (e.g. Jacobsen and Snag-it are distinctly separate without suggestion to incorporate parts of each other).

Request for Telephone Interview

Applicants request a telephone interview with the examiner following receipt of the present reply and amendment in order to consider alternative terminology or phraseology which the examiner may suggest, and in order to seek agreement regarding allowability of the claims if amended as proposed.

Applicants request an interview appointment on Thursday, May 10, 2007, at 10:00 a.m. (Eastern). Applicants' agent, Robert H. Frantz, can be reached at 405-812-5613, by the examiner to confirm this appointment, or to indicate the examiner's alternate choice of time and date for the telephone interview.